Under the Personnuk Reduction Act of 1225, no persons one required to respond to a consistent of Information unless it contains a valid CAIB control number. **Attorney Docket** DN 02-019 DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR Number First Named Inventor Christoph CARLHOFF DESIGN COMPLETE IF KNOWN PATENT APPLICATION (37 CFR 1.63) **Application Number** 10/578,735 Filing Date 11/05/2003 Declaration Declaration Submitted after Initial Submitted Art Unit Filing (surcharga to be assigned With Initial (37 CFR 1.16 (e)) Filing **Examiner Name** to be assigned required) I hereby declare that: Each inventor's residence, mailing address, and citizenship are as stated below next to their name. I believe the inventor(s) named below to be the original and first inventor(s) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: A PROCESS FOR KEEPING A TUYERE PASSING THROUGH A METALLURGICAL VESSEL FREE OF A SKULL (Title of the Invention) the specification of which is attached hereto OR as United States Application Number or PCT International 4 11/05/2003 was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) (if applicable). 12/23/2004 and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) PCT/EP03/12349 **Application Number** I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application. I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or (f), or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed. Certified Copy Attached? Priority Foreign Filing Date Prior Foreign Application Not Claimed (MMMDD/YYYY) Country Number(s) DE 12/19/2002 10259830.4

[Page 1 of 2]

This collection of information is required by 35 U.S.C. 115 and 37 CFR 1.63. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (end by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentially is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 21 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1460, Alexandria, VA 22313-1460.

Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

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DECLARATION — Utility or Design Patent Application

| Direct all correspondence to: The address associated with Customer Number | er: | | OR 🗸 | Correspondence address below |
|--|--------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Name | | | | |
| Leon Nigohosian, Jr. | | | | |
| Address Minerals Technologies Inc., Intellectual Property Law Dept., 1 Highland Avenue | | | | |
| City | | State | | ZIP |
| Bethlehem | | PA | | 18017-9482 |
| Country | Telephone | | Email | <u></u> |
| U.S.A. | 610-861-3466 | | leon.nigohosia | n@mineralstech.com |
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| NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR: | | etition has been file | d for this unsign | ned inventor |
| Given Name (first and middle [if any]) | | Family Name or Surname | | |
| Christoph | | Carlhoff | | |
| Inventor's Signature Change | (omaly) | | | Date 25.09.06 |
| Residence: City State | V | Country | Citize | nship |
| Willich | | Germany | German | 1 |
| Mailing Address Am Sandacker 12 | | | | |
| City State | | Zip | | Country |
| Willich | | D47877 | ļ, | Germany |
| Additional inventors or a legal representative are being named on thesupplemental sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A or 02LR attached hereto. | | | | |

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